

Special points of interest:

- FleetAnywhere Training January 18th and 19th at S.O.B.
- Alternative Fuel Vehicle Week Begins February 14th.
- Celebration Breakfast Scheduled February 22nd at S.O.B.
- 2nd Bi-annual Fleet Users Seminar is March 31st at S.O.B>

January 2000

Volume , Issue 1

Margaret Haacke Honored as Manager of the Year After Introducing a New Era in Fleet Services



Margaret Haacke

On Thursday September 23, Governor Mike Leavitt honored Margaret Haacke as 1999's manager of the year. Haacke, who was recently promoted to Assistant Director of Fleet Operations, was selected, from among the many qualified candidates, for her efforts in bringing the Division into a new era of electronic tracking.

She came to the Division in October of 1997, with an extensive background

in information technology, including computer programming, database design and systems analysis. As the new Information Technology Manager, her main objective was to turn the many state and the higher education fleets into one unified organization. With an 18-month deadline hanging over her head, she started to build the foundation the Division will stand on for the new millennium.

She began by hiring a highly skilled programming team who found a Y2K compliant reservation and maintenance tracking system called FleetAnywhere. After a few modifications the system, now referred to as a Computerized Automotive Resource System or C.A.R.S., was brought on-line within the Division in the spring of 1998. By July of 1999 the system was fully operational with all of the different fleets united as one.

"It is wonderful," Haacke said. "Reports that use

to take four months to compile, now run in ten minutes."

Along with change in the system, came a change for many of the Division employee's. Haacke has asked them to "reinvent themselves". From helping to change old procedures to learning completely new positions, the employee's have stepped up to the challenge.

"It's amazing to see how much people can grow when they are involved in the change process," she said.

Some of the changes include a vehicle maintenance call center; full training for the many divisions and higher education employee's using the new system and an improved billing and procurement system for refueling state vehicles.

Although honored by the Governor's recognition, Haacke feels that this undertaking was truly a team effort.

"We came in, we worked hard and someone said 'thank you', and that's great," she said.

The State Fuel Network Continues the Fight for Clean Air

As a part of the Clean Cities Coalition, the State Fuel Network has been granted \$93,000 towards the more than \$700,000 needed to complete three new and upgrade a fourth Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) refueling sites in the Salt Lake County area. The money provided by the Gas Research Institute, represents 14.1 percent of the funding needed for the project and will cover the engineering and installation costs. Once construction is completed a three-month, real-world study will begin using 11 factory built CNG passenger shuttle vans. The study will monitor performance and emission of the vans at high altitudes. It is the hope of the Clean Cities Coalition and the State of Utah Fuel Network that the study will help to increase the use of Alternative Fuel State owned vehicles.

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A New and Improved Shuttle for the New Millennium

There have been many transportation changes in the downtown area of Salt Lake City during the final months of the Twentieth Century: Main Street closed between South and North Temple; I-15 is growing to accommodate the increased traffic flow in and out of the downtown area and most notably TRAX. All of the changes are to help ease traffic congestion in downtown Salt Lake. In this spirit, the Division of Fleet Operations (DFO) is expanding the shuttle run and hours of operation.

The downtown shuttle run is now stopping at a Main Street TRAX stop, located at approximately 250 South Main, directly east of the TRAX stop. The west run has added two stops

near the Delta Center. The first is just north of the TRAX stop, it is a westbound run heading in the direction of the Tax building, and will stop between the Human Services and the Division of Natural Resource stops. The eastbound shuttles from the Delta Center will pick-up just south of the TRAX stop, this stop will be made between the Health and Human Services stops.

Some time in February 2000 the shuttle will begin extended hours and a third shuttle will be added to handle the early morning and evening peak times. Contact the Central Motor Pool for shuttle times and schedule. Or checkout our web-site at <http://fleet.state.ut.us> under the fleet section, for shuttle and other DFO information.

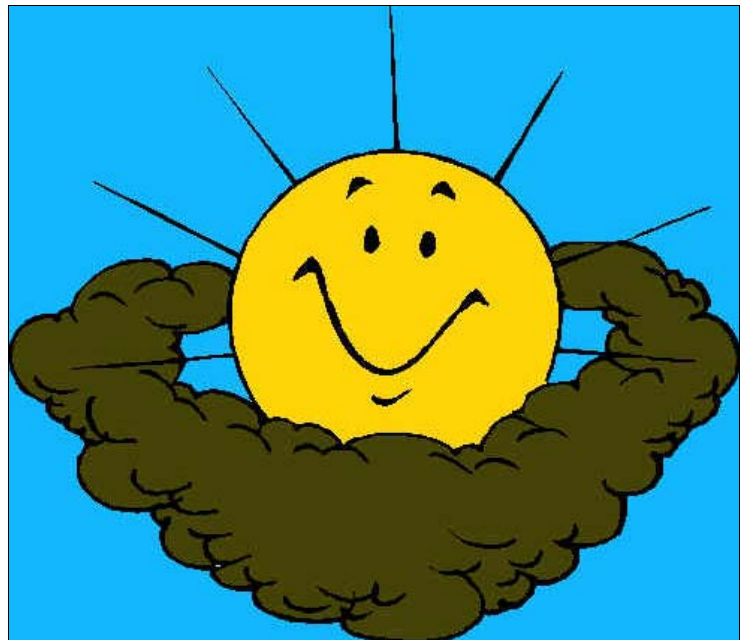
Alternative Fuel Celebrations Scheduled

Although the official Alternative Fuel Vehicle (AFV) Week is the second week in February, due to some scheduling problems, the actual celebration of AFV Week will be held Tuesday morning February 22 in the auditorium in the State Office Building.

The festivities are scheduled to begin at 7:45 a.m. with a breakfast meeting. According to Beverly Miller of the Clean Cities Coalition, there will be achievement awards and thank you plaques given out to participants of the coalition during the breakfast meeting. There will also be some speakers addressing the different aspects of AFVs, including an address from Salt Lake City's new mayor.

After the meeting people will be invited to try out an AFV. Several AFVs will be available for attendees to test-drive. There will also be refueling clinics and information on the advantage of driving an AFV.

The Division of Fleet Operations will be on hand to



help answer any question regarding the safety or performance issues you may have concerning AFVs. They can also fill you in on which types of AFVs are available for use by State employees.

All State employees as well as the general public are invited, however Miller would like somewhat of a headcount and is requesting that all non-

state employees interested in attending contact her at 801-535-7736. (That way she will have enough food.) So invite your friends and family to join you for breakfast and a test-drive to celebrate the use of Alternative Fuel Vehicles.

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Clean Cities Coalition Says Between Safety & Health AFVs are Way To Go



The University of Utah received five new Natural Gas Powered Shuttle Buses after the Division of Fleet Operations received an award of \$ 150,000. in federal grant monies. Ken Seates from the U. of U. Fleet Management states that the busses are very environmentally friendly, both with emissions and noise.

"The evidence is that gasoline powered cars are more likely to explode than natural gas vehicle."

The Clean Cities Program got its start in 1992 after the Federal Government enacted the Energy Policy of 1992 [EPAAct]. Congress felt the continued fighting in the Middle East made access to sufficient amounts of fossil fuel questionable. The policy mandates the use of alternative fuel vehicles by Governments and large business' thus making the United States less dependant on crude oil from foreign countries. The Clean Cities Program was designed to encourage the mandated conversion of area fleets. The State of Utah looked upon EPAAct not only as an energy conservation tactic, but also an opportunity to begin the fight for cleaner air.

According to Beverly Miller, of the Clean Cities Coalition, the State is ahead of schedule on the purchasing and conversion of alternative fuel vehicles and completes required paperwork in a timely manner. The State of Utah cur-

rently has more 1000 AFVs in the fleet and has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Energy for its outstanding efforts to convert the fleet.

However, there is one area of this program where the State is falling short, finding drivers willing to get behind the wheel of a natural gas powered vehicle (NGV). Concerns have been raised about the safety of these vehicles. However, Miller believes the NGV's to be safer to drive than gasoline powered cars. She sights the numerous tests performed on the NGVs, with no damage to the tank, including dropping a car on its tank from three stories up and shooting a tank with a shotgun.

"The evidence is that gasoline powered cars are far more likely to explode than natural gas cars," Miller said.

Another concern of potential NGV drivers is refueling. Miller explains that the refueling process is easier than pumping gasoline. A natural

gas hose is attached to the nozzle of the car and a few minutes later the tank is full. When a tank is filled in this manner, the vehicle will travel an average of 100 miles. Refueling can be done at many gas stations statewide. A map of refueling locations and refueling instructions can be found in the glove box of all the NGVs owned by the State of Utah.

"I do believe that there is something happening to our climate. Even though gasoline engines are much, much cleaner. We have, at least, doubled the number of vehicles on the road, just in this state, in the last 20 years," Miller said. "We can't find the smoking gun as it relates to health concerns. But we are finding increasing evidence that on days there is bad air, there are more visits to the emergency room. We can't do an absolute cause and affect relationship, but the evidence seems to be something to look at."

